

Whereas, on May 6, 2008, President Bush pledged \$3,000,000 in emergency assistance to victims of Cyclone Nargis, and stated that allowing the disaster assistance response team to enter the country would facilitate additional support;

Whereas the European Union has pledged to deliver \$3,000,000 in initial emergency disaster assistance to Burma;

Whereas according to the United Nations Country Team in Burma, the average household in Burma is forced to spend almost ¼ of its budget on food and 1 in 3 children under the age of 5 is suffering from malnutrition;

Whereas the prevalence of tuberculosis in Burma is among the highest in the world, with nearly 97,000 new cases detected annually, malaria is the leading cause of mortality in Burma, with 70 percent of the population living in areas at risk, at least 37,000 died of HIV/AIDS in Burma in 2005 and over 600,000 are currently infected, and the World Health Organization has ranked the health sector of Burma as 190th out of 191 countries;

Whereas the failure of Burma's ruling State Peace and Development Council to meet the most basic humanitarian needs of the people of Burma has caused enormous suffering inside Burma and driven hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens to seek refuge in neighboring countries, creating a threat to regional peace and stability; and

Whereas, in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis, the State Peace and Development Council continues to restrict the access and freedom of movement of international nongovernmental organizations to deliver humanitarian assistance throughout Burma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate—

(1) to express deep sympathy to and strong support for the people of Burma, who have endured tremendous hardships over many years and face especially dire humanitarian conditions in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis;

(2) to support the decision of President Bush to provide immediate emergency humanitarian assistance to Burma through nongovernmental organizations that are not affiliated with the Burmese regime or its officials and can effectively provide such assistance directly to the people of Burma;

(3) to stand ready to appropriate additional funds, beyond existing emergency international disaster assistance resources, if necessary to help address dire humanitarian conditions throughout Burma in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis and beyond;

(4) to call upon the State Peace and Development Council to immediately lift restrictions on delivery of humanitarian assistance and allow free and unfettered access to the United States Government's disaster assistance response team and any organizations that legitimately provide humanitarian assistance; and

(5) that the United States Agency for International Development should conduct a comprehensive evaluation of which organizations are capable of providing humanitarian assistance directly to the people throughout Burma without interference by the State Peace and Development Council.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 80—URGING THE PRESIDENT TO DESIGNATE A NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY IN RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO ARE SERVING OR HAVE SERVED IN THE AIRBORNE FORCES OF THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Ms.

SNOWE, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 80

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as units of adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the effective ground combat power of the United States by Air Force air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and, indeed, to the far corners of the world;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, an event that validated the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind the battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the United States experiment of airborne infantry attack began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and was launched when 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas the success of the Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately preceding the entry of the United States into World War II led to the formation of a formidable force of airborne units that have served with distinction and have had repeated success in armed hostilities;

Whereas among those airborne units are the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions, the venerable 82nd Airborne Division, the versatile 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the airborne regiments and battalions (some as components of those divisions, some as separate units) that achieved distinction as the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 187th Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, the 503rd, 507th, 508th, 517th, 541st, and 542nd Parachute Infantry Regiments, the 88th Glider Infantry Regiment, the 509th, 551st, and 555th Parachute Infantry Battalions, and the 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peace-keeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force that has evolved from those World War II beginnings is an agile, powerful force that, in large part, is composed of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 75th Ranger Regiment;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed entirely of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control teams, all or most of which comprise the forces of the United States Special Operations Command;

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism by carrying out combat operations in Afghanistan, training operations in the Philippines, and other operations elsewhere;

Whereas in the aftermath of the President's announcement of Operation Iraqi

Freedom in March 2003, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism, carrying out combat operations, conducting civil affairs missions, and assisting in establishing democracy in Iraq;

Whereas the airborne forces are and will continue to be at the ready and the forefront until the Global War on Terrorism is concluded;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States combat airborne forces, all have achieved distinction by earning the right to wear the airborne's "Silver Wings of Courage", thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, 69 have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished-Service Cross, Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of such traits as heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States combat airborne forces are members of a proud and honorable fraternity of the profession of arms that is made exclusive by those distinctions which, together with their special skills and achievements, distinguish them as intrepid combat parachutists, special operation forces, and (in former days) glider troops;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the American people; and

Whereas, since the airborne community celebrates August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 would be an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress urges the President to designate a National Airborne Day.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 81—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 81

Whereas women of all backgrounds have the power to greatly reduce their risk of common diseases through preventive measures, such as leading a healthy lifestyle that includes engaging in regular physical activity, eating a nutritious diet, and visiting a healthcare provider to receive regular check-ups and preventative screenings;

Whereas significant disparities exist in the prevalence of disease among women of different backgrounds, including women with disabilities, African-American women, Asian-Pacific Islander women, Latinas, and American Indian-Alaska Native women;

Whereas healthy habits should begin at a young age;

Whereas preventive care saves Federal dollars designated for health care;

Whereas it is important to educate women and girls about the significance of awareness of key female health issues;

Whereas the offices of women's health within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration,